

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed 1/27/2009, with respect to claims 1, 2, 7-9, 11, 22-24, 28, 31, 32, 43, 46, 47 and 49 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of the aforementioned claims has been withdrawn.

Response to Amendment

2. Claims 3-6, 10, 12-21, 25-27, 29, 30, 33-42, 45 and 48 have been cancelled.
3. Claims 1, 2, 7-9, 11, 22-24, 28, 31, 32, 43, 46, 47 and 49 have been amended.
4. Claim 50 has been added.
5. Claims 1, 2, 7-9, 11, 22-24, 28, 31, 32, 43, 46, 47, 49 and 50 are pending.

Information Disclosure Statement

6. The Information Disclosure Statement received 5/1/2009 has been considered by the Examiner with the exception of US Patent No. 6,228,818. The

Art Unit: 2434

aforementioned patent is directed to borate esters and has no bearing on a DRM system with partial licenses.

Claim Objections

7. In light of Applicant's amendment, the previous objection to claim 49 has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

8. In light of the Applicant's arguments and amendments, the previous 35 USC 112, 1st paragraph rejection of claims 1, 2, 7-9, 11, 22-24, 28, 31, 32, 43, 46 and 47 have been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

9. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Trevor Lind on 5/4/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

50. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving content at a client device from a content publisher, wherein the client device is configured to execute a digital rights management module;

receiving a request to output the content at the client device;

determining, at the client device, if a valid formal license is available for the content at the client device, wherein the valid formal license is read to output the content, and wherein the valid formal license is comprised of a plurality of partial licenses, each partial license received from a plurality of license authorities;

obtaining, at the client device, a plurality of partial licenses from a plurality of license authorities when the valid formal license is not available at the client device, wherein the client device receives one partial license from a first number of the plurality of license authorities and the client device receives more than one license from

Art Unit: 2434

second number of the plurality of license authorities;
and

combining the plurality of partial licenses at
the client device to form the valid formal license.

This ends the Examiner's Amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 1, 2, 7-9, 11, 22-24, 28, 31, 32, 43, 46, 47, 49 and 50 are allowed over the prior art for the reasons provided in the Remarks of 1/27/2009. The Applicant has disclosed US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0120675 to Everett et al. (hereinafter Everett) and US Patent No. 5,543,856 to Rosser et al. (hereinafter Rosser) as prior art material to patentability. The Examiner has reviewed the Everett and Rosser references and has found that neither one alone nor in combination teaches the claim limitations of the instant invention. The Everett reference is directed to transferring media files over a network in a specific sequence. The Rosser reference is directed to inserting advertising indicia into broadcast video streams. The references are silent on the use of a license to access content that is made up of a plurality of partial licenses received from a plurality of license authorities. For at least the reasons above, the limitations of the claims are deemed allowable.

Art Unit: 2434

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to WILLIAM S. POWERS whose telephone number is (571)272-8573. The examiner can normally be reached on m-f 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Zand can be reached on 571 272 3811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/W. S. P./
Examiner, Art Unit 2434

William S. Powers
Examiner
Art Unit 2434

5/5/2009
/Kambiz Zand/

Application/Control Number: 10/685,234

Page 7

Art Unit: 2434

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2434